

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 12-16, and 19 will be amended and claims 2 and 20-29 will be canceled. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 has been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments.

Claim Rejections

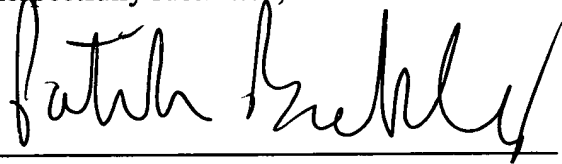
The previously pending claims were rejected under 35 USC 102 and/103 in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0087534 A1 ("Blackman"), U.S. Publication No. 2002/0188539 A1 ("Axelrad"), U.S. Publication No. 2002/0198833 A1 ("Wohlstadter") and/or Advanced Perl Programming by Sriram Srinivasan (1997) ("Perl").

As amended, claim 1 recites "determining an agreement scope, a document scope, and a fact set scope," placing these scopes in a scope stack, and "evaluating the scope stack via an evaluation engine to produce a result in accordance with a rule." Support for these elements can be found, for example, in FIGS. 18 and 19 and the accompanying description in the as-filed specification. None of the references, taken alone or in combination, disclose such features. As a result, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection. The remaining claims depend from claim 1 or recite similar limitations and should be allowable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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